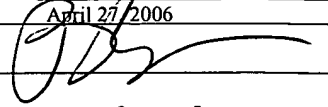


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor :Akira TAKAHASHI, et al.
Filed :January 30, 2006
For :SHELL-TYPE NEEDLE ...
Serial Number :10/566,956

April 27, 2006

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary regulations 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of non-US documents (if any) listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

For documents written in a language other than English, English language abstracts and/or explanations are annexed thereto explaining relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98 (a)(3).

Also attached is an International Search Report dated November 9, 2004, from the corresponding International Application.

As this statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due. However, any fee determined to be due with this statement may be charged to Deposit Account 50-1290.

The present Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR §§1.104 (a) and 1.106 (b), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Hassan A. Shakir
Reg. No. 53,922

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304
Docket No.: KAM 22.375



1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
Sheet 1 of 1U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office

Application No. : 10/566,956

Filing Date : January 30, 2006

First Named Inventor : A. TAKAHASHI

Group Art Unit :

Examiner Name :

Attorney Docket No. : KAM 22.375

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		5,615,956		OBA ET AL.	04-10-1997	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Office ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Country	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		4-39412	JP	NIPPON SEIKO KK	02-10-1992	
		2002-2070874	JP	NSK LTD	03-08-2002	
		51-36108	JP	KOYO SEIKO CO., LTD.	03-08-2002	
		6-264930	JP	NIPPON SEIKO KK	09-20-1994	
		7-238940	JP	NTN TOYO BEARING CO LTD	09-12-1995	Corresponds to US Application 5,615,956

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source.	Applicant check here if English language translation attached
		International Search Report dated November 9, 2004	
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1⁶ if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take .2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of Information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.